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ABSTRACT

North Carolina created the State Migrant Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) in response to federal regulations regarding the establishment, membership, and function of PACs at the state and local level, and in order to consider the views of migrant parents regarding the planning, operation, and evaluation of the migrant education program. State and local education agencies (SEAs and LEAs) can involve migrant parents in program planning by seeking their opinions of student health and welfare, career plans, education materials, and program and curriculum changes. In terms of program operation, LEAs and SEAs can employ migrant parents in the program when possible, or use the parents as resource persons. As members of monitoring teams or as reviewers of test scores and evaluation reports, migrant parents can contribute to the evaluation of the migrant program. LEAs can also involve and cooperate with parents in many daily activities such as developing home resources, making materials, reading and tutoring, repairing and distributing clothing, and helping in class. The booklet contains the bylaws of the North Carolina State Migrant PAC, a statement of purpose for the group, and suggestions for maintaining the effectiveness of a PAC. (SB)

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Migrant Education

State and Local Parent Advisory Committees

A Partnership in Migrant Education



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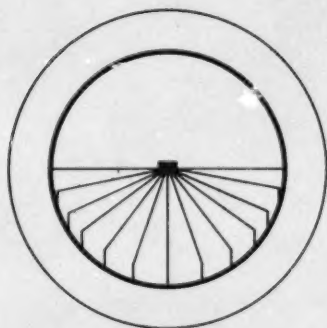
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MIGRANT EDUCATION STATE AND LOCAL
PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEES --
A PARTNERSHIP IN MIGRANT EDUCATION

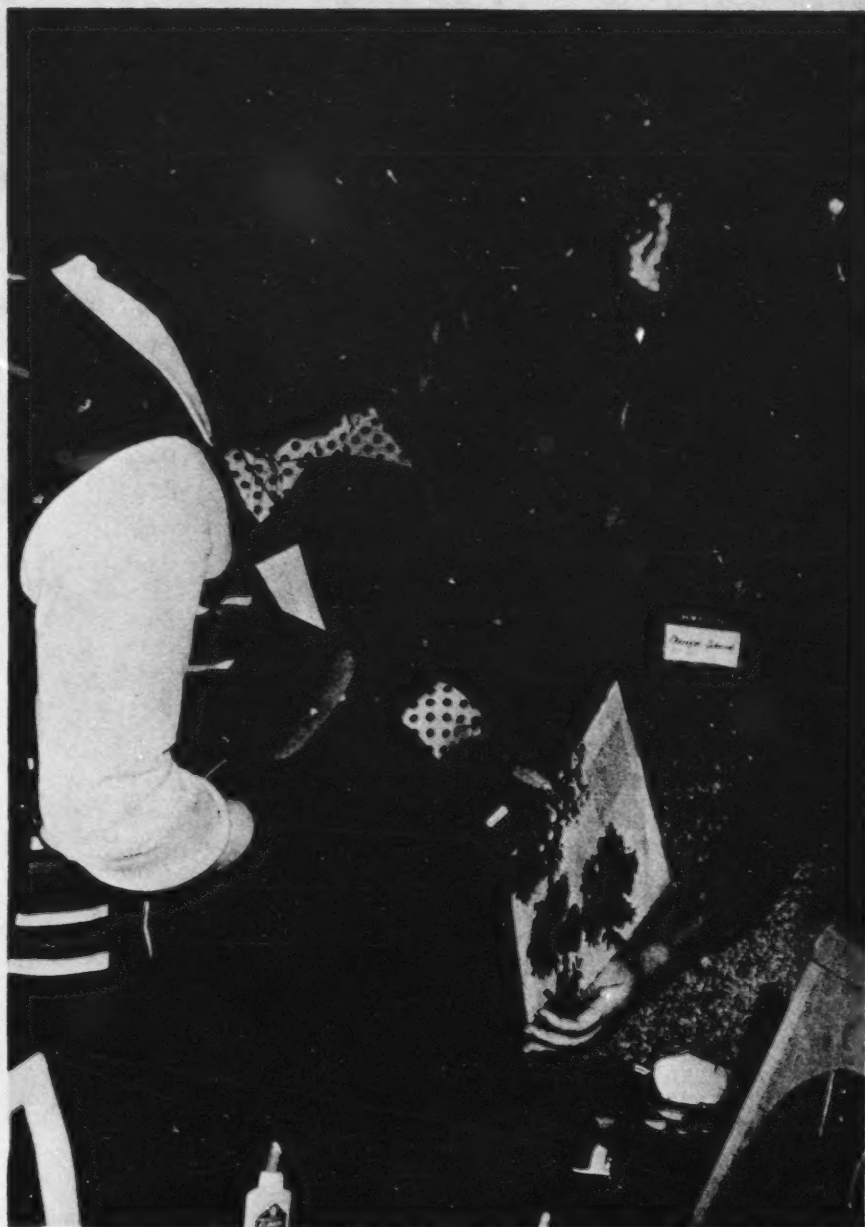


Migrant Education Section
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PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT -- A Partnership

A parental involvement program is a partnership approach between the home and the school. Its purpose is to improve the educational program for the children through the planning and implementation of educational activities.

The program should establish a vehicle for better communications between the home and the school. Parents who participate in the program will bring the home and the school together for greater educational benefits. Those who have been indifferent will become concerned because of their involvement. Those who have experiences of failure in schools will work in support of their schools. The parents' positive attitudes toward schools will help to instill positive attitudes in the children. Children will show a new-found pride in their schools and the educational processes designed to serve them. Thus, the learning of the child will be increased, the community will be better served, and the society will benefit from better citizens due at least in part to the involvement of its parents.

Educational programs involving teachers, children, and their parents seem to generate great enthusiasm for learning, as well as effecting greater student gains. An effective State Migrant Parent Advisory Committee can establish a better framework for planning creative educational activities which should help bridge the gap between what is learned at home and what is taught at school.

REQUIREMENT FOR PARENT INVOLVEMENT

The final regulations dealing with parent involvement and parent advisory councils strengthen the previous guidelines by requiring parent involvement at both the State and local project levels.

Section 116d.37 of the regulations for migrant education programs states:

"Each SEA shall take the necessary steps to assure effective parental involvement throughout the State program. As a minimum, each SEA shall demonstrate in its application that:

- (a) It will require each operating agency to solicit actively parental involvement in the planning, operation, and evaluation of its projects; and to establish a parent advisory council whose views will be considered concerning the operation and evaluation of the present project, and the planning of the future projects. This advisory council must be composed of people who know the needs of migratory children. A majority of the advisory council members must be parents of children who were, are being, or will be served by that project.
- (b) It has actively solicited parental involvement in the planning, operation, and evaluation of its State program; and has established a State parent advisory council whose views will be considered concerning the operation and evaluation of the present State program, and the planning of future State programs. This State parent advisory council must be composed of people who know the needs of migratory children. A majority of the advisory council members must be parents of children who were, are being, or will be served by the State program."

(20 U.S.C. 241c; 241e((a); 1231d.)

STATE MIGRANT PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Preamble

Public Law 95-561 and program regulations require that the State Educational Agency give consideration to the views of migrant parents in planning the State migrant education program.

Section 116d.37 of the regulations for migrant education programs states:

Each SEA shall take the necessary steps to assure effective parental involvement throughout the State program. As a minimum, each SEA shall demonstrate in its application that:

- (a) It will require each operating agency to solicit actively parental involvement in the planning, operation, and evaluation of its projects, and to establish a parent advisory council whose views will be considered concerning the operation and evaluation of the present project, and the planning of future projects. This advisory council must be composed of people who know the needs of migratory children. A majority of the advisory council members must be parents of children who were, are being, or will be served by that project.
- (b) It has actively solicited parental involvement in the planning, operation, and evaluation of its State program, and has established a State parent advisory council whose views will be considered concerning the operation and evaluation of the present State program, and the planning of future State programs. This State parent advisory council must be composed of people who know the needs of migratory children. A majority of the advisory council members must be parents of children who were, are being, or will be served by the State program.

In keeping with this mandate, the State Migrant Educa-

tion Office has organized a State Migrant Parent Advisory Committee to consider parents' views with respect to the planning, operation, and evaluation of the present state program; and the planning of future state programs.

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of the organization shall be The North Carolina Migrant Education State Parent Advisory Committee.

ARTICLE II

Purposes

- Section 1 Keep members of the local migrant parent councils informed about changes in Federal and State regulations pertaining to the operation of the migrant program.
- Section 2 Recommend to the State Migrant Education Office special programs to meet the needs of the migrant children.
- Section 3 Provide for parent and community participation in the Title I Migrant Education Program at the state and local levels.
- Section 4 Suggest activities that can improve the overall operation of the State Migrant Education Program.
- Section 5 Suggest activities that can be used as a guide for local parent advisory councils.

ARTICLE III

Objectives

- Section 1 Migrant parents will understand better the educational role of the home.
- Section 2 Migrant parents will give more attention to their children's learning.
- Section 3 Migrant parents will be better informed about educational resources and services available to them.

Section 4 Migrant parents will become involved in identifying ways to help their children achieve academically and socially.

Section 5 Migrant parents will have opportunities to interact with other parents concerning mutual interests and needs.

ARTICLE IV

Functions

Section 1 The Committee shall make recommendations concerning the needs of the migrant students.

Section 2 The Committee shall collect and disseminate information on resources available to meet the needs of the migrant population.

Section 3 The Committee may sponsor and conduct workshops and other meetings to help local migrant councils better understand their roles and responsibilities.

Section 4 The Committee shall present a unified front in support of educational programs for migrant children.

ARTICLE V

Membership

Section 1 Regular membership in the North Carolina Migrant Education State Parent Advisory Committee shall be composed of a majority of parents of children who were, are being served, or will be served by migrant projects.

Section 2 Associate membership in this organization is open to the state migrant education staff and members of local migrant councils.

Section 3 Voting in the organization will be limited to Parent Advisory Committee representatives in the regular membership.

ARTICLE VI

Officers

Section 1 The officers in this organization shall consist of migrant parents:

- a. one chairperson
- b. one vice chairperson
- c. one secretary/treasurer

Section 2 The officers shall be elected at the fall meeting of the organization.

ARTICLE VII

Committees

Section 1 The executive committee shall be composed of officers and the State Director of the Migrant Education Program.

Section 2 The chairperson shall appoint all standing and special committees.

Section 3 The executive committee shall determine the time, place and other details relating to meetings of the committee.

ARTICLE VIII

Quorum and Rules of Order

Section 1 A simple majority of regular members shall constitute a quorum.

Section 2 Robert's Rules of Order, as modified, shall be used as a guide in determining the responsibilities of the officers and the conduct of business.

ARTICLE IX

Amendments

Section 1 Any member of the Committee may propose amendments to the constitution.

Section 2 Amendments must be presented to the membership at least one meeting in advance of the meeting in which action on the proposed amendment is taken.

Section 3 A two-thirds majority of the voting members

shall be necessary to amend the constitution.

INVOLVING PARENTS IN PLANNING, OPERATION
AND

EVALUATION OF MIGRANT PROGRAMS

The areas specified in the regulations requiring involvement of parents are the planning, operation, and evaluation of migrant education programs. The following suggestions are some of the ways that may be used to involve parents at the State and local levels.

Suggestions for getting parents involved in planning migrant education programs;

- Secure parents' views on the health needs of students
- Secure parents' views on the welfare needs of migrant students
- Secure parents' views on the occupational and career plans for students
- Use parents in identifying students strengths and weaknesses
- Use parents on the interagency committee
- Review goals and objectives of the program
- Secure parents' reactions to long-range and annual plans
- Secure parents' advice on changes in the program
- Secure parents' recommendations concerning curriculum

Suggestions for getting parents involved in the operation of migrant education programs include:

- Employ qualified migrant parents for professional and para professional positions
- Provide migrant parents with opportunities to acquire skills in test analysis and needs assessment
- Use parents as resource persons at workshops
- Secure parents' views on workshop topics, films, books, and other educational materials

Suggestions for getting parents involved in the evaluation of State programs:

- Parents can serve on monitoring teams that assess the effectiveness of local migrant programs
- Parents can review state evaluation reports and make recommendations on them
- Parents can review student test scores
- Parents can evaluate school supplies

The State Migrant Parent Advisory Committee devotes a considerable amount of time and effort toward upgrading parents skills in recognizing and solving educational problems. Topics include: (1) home resources, (2) academic and social needs, (3) interpreting test data, (4) migrant student record transfer system.

INVOLVING PARENTS IN LOCAL MIGRANT PROJECTS

Local operating agency activities provide many opportunities for parent involvement. Involvement at the school level provides direct and unique opportunities for parents, teachers and other school personnel to work together toward solving school related problems.

Suggested activities for parent-teacher cooperation:

- Developing a list of resource materials that students can use at home
- Fostering positive student attitudes toward school
- Developing good eating habits (especially at breakfast)
- Arranging a place for study at home
- Talking about behavior problems
- Developing toy libraries--Toys can be used to help assess students developmental needs

Suggested volunteer services for migrant parents:

Parents can provide valuable direct service to the school and the migrant teachers which will have an impact on the achievements of migrant children. These services include:

- Operate ditto and mimeograph machines
- Collect money
- Make costumes, dramatic sets, etc.
- Supervise playground activities
- Distribute materials
- Help in the Listening Center
- Prepare art materials
- Telephone parents about absentees
- Help as the nurse's aide
- Arrange bulletin boards
- Maintain picture files
- Assist with reading groups (games, seatwork, etc.)
- Correct objective tests
- Sew torn clothes; add buttons
- Monitor study halls
- Present interesting hobbies
- Plan show-case exhibits (hobbies of parents)
- Obtain and distribute clothing
- Catalog and maintain a file of resource parents
- Tutor small groups
- Make telephone calls; e.g., calling car pool helpers
- Set up appointments for home visits
- Repair furniture and equipment
- Read stories to group
- Help in resource center
- Represent other parents on citizens' committees

Suggestions for keeping an Advisory Committee effective:

- Maintain quality programs that will be worthwhile and purposeful for members
- After a nucleus organization has been established, create a telephone communication system
- Follow up each meeting announcement with an illustrated flyer or a "personal touch"
- Use monthly conference time to encourage parents personally to attend PAC
- Use radio and newspaper for announcing Parent Advisory Committee meetings
- Hold meetings to accomodate parents having young children, or parents who work
- Provide babysitting services and transportation for meetings

- Set a tone for meetings that communicates an informal, but well planned activity
- Plan a meeting which may include students sharing a learning experience with parents and other committee members
- Show popular movies, admitting only those students whose parents accompany them, thus freeing parents to participate in PAC activities
- Hold "coffee klatches" at migrant parents' homes
- Hold meeting during the day at parents' place of employment
- Give points for attendance at PAC meetings which may be cashed in toward a prize (home appliance, grocery item, educational materials, toys)
- Sponsor a contest (example; pie or cake)
- Award certificates for attending PAC meeting
- Take positive action on the first legitimate recommendation made by committee members
- Establish a regular meeting time and place
- Notify each member well in advance of each meeting
- Send copies of the minutes of each scheduled meeting to committee members
- Listen to your members
- Give adequate visibility to the group

Suggested Local Parent Advisory Committee Program Calendar

August

- Attend PAC meeting
- Review local school project application
- Visit local schools with migrant education program
- Attend State sponsored workshop

September

- Attend monthly PAC meeting
- Serve as volunteers during school activity or parent night
- Attend local Board of Education meeting

October

- Attend State Parent Advisory Committee meeting
- Assist local school staff with duties relating to annual Education Fair

November

- Attend monthly PAC meeting (elect representatives to the State Parent Advisory Committee)
- Attend SEA sponsored leadership training workshop
- Attend SEA sponsored technical assistance workshop (PAC organization, comparability, preparation of application and project evaluation)

December

- Attend monthly PAC meeting
- Attend school sponsored Christmas party

January

- Attend monthly PAC meeting

February

- Attend monthly PAC meeting

March

- Attend monthly PAC meeting
- Evaluate school program
- Attend local Board of Education meeting

April

- Discuss project evaluation and make recommendations on effectiveness of project

May

- Attend monthly PAC meeting
- Set next school year project priorities

June

- Review and begin project preparations for next year's project

July

- Attend summer staff development workshop